

What is claimed is:

1. An adapter for a surface mount device, the adapter comprising:  
an insulating body having offset first and second surfaces;  
a pattern of surface mount solder pads formed on the first surface;  
5 a pattern of signal carriers communicating between the first and second surfaces, each of the signal carriers being at least partially exposed in an area between the first and second surfaces and adjacent to the second surface; and  
a plurality of signal lines electrically coupling one or more of the surface mount solder pads with predetermined ones of the signal carriers.
- 10 2. The adapter of claim 1, further comprising a pattern of electrical contacts formed on the second surface and being electrically coupled to different ones of the signal carriers.
3. The adapter of claim 1 wherein the insulated body further comprises a signal layer laminated between the first and second surfaces with one or more of the plurality of signal lines being formed on the signal layer.
- 15 4. The adapter of claim 1 wherein each of the signal carriers further comprises an electrically conductive material formed on an interior surface of a passage that communicates between the first and second surfaces.
5. The adapter of claim 1 wherein the signal lines couple a function of a replacement  
surface mount device to a signal carrier that corresponds to a position in the pattern of signal  
20 carriers that is associated with a similar function provided by a replaced surface mount device.
6. A surface mount adapter for a surface mount device, the adapter comprising:  
a printed circuit board having a top layer and bottom layer, and a first footprint formed  
on the top layer of the printed circuit board for receiving a first surface mount device, and a  
25 second footprint formed on the bottom layer of the printed circuit board for simulating a  
second surface mount device; and  
a plurality of input/output lines connected between the first foot print and one or more  
of a plurality of electrical contacts corresponding to the second foot print, at least a portion of

each of the input/output lines adjacent to the bottom layer being exposed between the top and bottom layers.

7. The adapter of claim 6, further comprising a plurality of solder pads formed on the top layer and corresponding to the first foot print.

5 8. The adapter of claim 7 wherein the input/output lines couple one or more of the solder pads on the top layer to one or more of the plurality of electrical contacts on the bottom layer.

9. The adapter of claim 7 wherein the electrical contacts further comprise a plurality of solder pads formed on the bottom layer and corresponding to the second foot print.

10 10. The adapter of claim 6 wherein each of the plurality of input/output lines further comprises a quantity of electrically conductive metal deposited in a groove that communicates between the top and bottom layers.

11. The adapter of claim 6 wherein the second foot print is different from the first foot print.

12. An adapter for a surface mounted device, the adapter comprising:  
15 a printed circuit board having a top layer and a bottom layer;  
a pattern of solder pads formed on the top layer of the printed circuit board, the pattern being structured for receiving a first surface mount device;  
a plurality of vias formed along a periphery of the printed circuit board and communicating between the top layer and the bottom layer, each of the vias having a quantity  
20 of electrically conductive material deposited therein;  
an electrical signal line coupled between one of the solder pads and one of the vias;  
and  
a pattern of electrical contacts formed on the bottom layer of the printed circuit board, the pattern being structured to simulate a second surface mount device.

25 13. The adapter of claim 12 wherein at least a portion of the electrically conductive material in each of the plurality of vias adjacent to the corresponding electrical contacts formed on the bottom layer is exposed between the top and bottom layers.

14. The adapter of claim 12 wherein each of the plurality of vias further comprises an electrically conductive material plated on an interior surface of a partial cylindrical passage.

15. The adapter of claim 12 wherein the printed circuit board further comprises a plurality of interconnected layer including a signal layer and a ground layer.

5 16. An adapter for a surface mounted device, the adapter comprising:  
a body means for supporting a first surface mounted device relative to a printed circuit board;

a first interconnecting means being positioned on a first surface of the body means for electrically interconnecting to a first surface mounted device;

10 a second interconnecting means being positioned on a second surface of the body means for electrically interconnecting to a printed circuit board structured to receive a second surface mounted device; and

means for electrically coupling the first and second electrically interconnecting means, at least a portion of the electrically coupling means being exposed between the first and  
15 second surfaces of the body means.

17. The adapter of claim 16 wherein the electrically coupling further comprises signal communication means spanning between the first and second surfaces along a peripheral surface of the body means.

18. The adapter of claim 16 wherein the exposed portion of the electrically coupling is  
20 positioned adjacent to the second surface of the body means.

19. The adapter of claim 16 wherein the first interconnecting means further comprises means for forming an electrically conductive solder joint.

20. A method for adapting a first surface mounted device having a first quantity of input/output leads to a replace a second surface mounted device having a second quantity of  
25 input/output leads, the method comprising:

providing first electrical interconnecting means structured for coupling to input/output leads of a first surface mounted device;

providing second electrical interconnecting means structured for coupling to a printed circuit board structured to receive a second surface mounted device, including providing the second electrical interconnecting means at a portion of an adapter body that remains available for visual inspection after assembly to a using printed circuit board; and

5 providing signal conduction means for carrying input/output signals between the first and second electrical interconnecting means.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein providing the second electrical interconnecting means at a portion of an adapter body that remains available for visual inspection after assembly to a using printed circuit board further comprises providing at least a portion of the  
10 second electrical interconnecting means along an exterior surface of the adapter body.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein providing first electrical interconnecting means structured for coupling to input/output leads of a first surface mounted device further comprises forming a first quantity of solder pads on a top layer of the adapter body in a pattern structured to receive the input/output leads of the first surface mounted device.

15 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising soldering the input/output leads of the first surface mounted device to corresponding ones of the solder pads.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein providing second electrical interconnecting means structured for coupling to a printed circuit board structured to receive a second surface mounted device further comprises forming a quantity of contacts on a bottom layer of the  
20 adapter body in a pattern structured in a pattern simulating input/output leads of the second surface mounted device.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising soldering the contacts on the bottom layer of the adapter body to solder pads on a using printed circuit board corresponding to input/output leads of the second surface mounted device.

25 26. The method of claim 20 wherein providing signal conduction means for carrying input/output signals between the first and second electrical interconnecting means further comprises providing signal conduction means between one of the first electrical

interconnecting means structured to couple to one input/output lead of the first surface mount device for providing a first input/output signal and one of the second electrical interconnecting means structured to couple to a contact on the using printed circuit board that is structured to communicate with an input/output signal of the second surface mounted  
5 device similar to the first input/output signal of the first surface mount device.

27. A parent printed circuit board assembly having a replacement surface mount device substituted for an original surface mounted device, the assembly comprising:

- a printed circuit board having a top layer and a bottom layer;
- a footprint formed on the top layer of the printed circuit board;
- 10 a first surface mount device being mounted to the footprint on the top layer of the printed circuit board;
- a plurality of signal carriers positioned along different peripheral edges of the printed circuit board and extended between the top and bottom layers of the printed circuit board and being at least partially exposed in an area adjacent to the bottom layer, each of the signal  
15 carriers being electrically and mechanically joined to a corresponding contact area of the printed circuit board; and
- a plurality of signal lines communicating between corresponding contact areas of the foot print and at least a portion of the signal carriers.

28. The adapter of claim 27, further comprising an electrical contact pad formed on the  
20 bottom layers of the printed circuit board at each of the signal carriers.

29. The adapter of claim 27, further comprising a solder joint whereby the signal carriers are electrically and mechanically joined to corresponding contact areas of the printed circuit board, each of the solder joint being at least partially formed on the partially exposed portion of each of the signal carriers.

25 30. The adapter of claim 27 wherein the surface mount device is a replacement device structured to provide input/output signals substantially identical to input/output signals provided by a replaced device.

31. The adapter of claim 30 wherein input/output signals of the replacement device are coupled to contact areas of the printed circuit board structured to interface with corresponding input/output signals of the replaced device.

32. The adapter of claim 31 wherein fewer of the corresponding contact areas of the foot  
5 print are provided for the replacement device than the contact areas provided on the printed  
circuit board for the replaced device.